

penitance takes us away from "dead works." Heb. 6:1.

We would delight to follow this subject farther, but our article is already too long. So we will say in conclusion that a good many years ago we were the victim of this second work theory, and for months we sought the blessing as earnestly as ever one of God's creatures could seek, for something which is not.

Moline, Ill.

"AS A MAN THINKS SO HE IS"

MRS. A. M. G.

It seems that in the great daily outpouring of printed matter, of the numberless journals, papers and books, there can be nothing more left to be said or written. And not only is the world's news and discoveries printed in multiplied form, but to help the jaded eyes of the rushing crowd large and expressive pictures cover page after page to catch the hurried fancy, so that it is literally true that "he who runs may read," nay *must* read.

To the people of a generation ago, whose advantages were meagre, it must appear the greatest help toward attaining so called *knowledge*, and which is true to a degree, i. e., if we can stand the constant pressure. But mental assimilation cannot be forced any more than one can assimilate food by glancing at or tasting or gorging at a feast. In fact, too much reading, like too much eating, is debilitating and leaves no time for meditation and growth. So with all our papers and books we may do ourselves harm and be less fortunate than those in earlier times who were debarred from such great privileges, for they, by reason of their privation and solitude, could learn to look into the nature and reason of things and learn to think. But why is it so imporsant that we read only the purest and best? Why? Because the mind feeds upon what it reads. The mind is so delicate, so susceptible, that it may at times, especially in the young, be swayed as easily as the tremulous leaf by the gentlest zephyr, and those thoughts which are most cherished and most dwelt upon form and determine character.

Reputation is no guarantee for a true inward character. Shakespeare says: It is "oft got without merit and lost without deserving." Not only is this true, but we may not know a man fully even by his conduct for by lack of perception or judgment he may blunder. Therefore it is wise to keep Christ's saying, "Judge no man" unless it be thyself, tho this is perhaps the most difficult of all, as in the language of artists it is not easy to get the right *perspective*. However, would you know who you are? Watch the tendency of your thoughts. As a man eats, so is he and as he reads so, to a great extent, is he, but *superlatively* as a man *thinks so is he*. It is a fact, serious and almost terrible, and to know who we are we need only to look within and see what's written there. Some people seem to think that so long as they are "law abiding" citizens it matters little what they think, and by way of anal-

ogy say, "You can keep the birds from nesting in your hair but you can't keep them from flying above your head!"

"As a man *thinks* so is he!" And he must be measured, not by his height and weight of flesh, but by his intentions, his integrity and aspiration of soul, which is the first, second and last condition of mind necessary to elevating, purifying and beautifying one's life. Among the wonderful discoveries of this century we are beginning to learn that "*thoughts are things*" as real and tangible as tree or rock or ocean, and more powerful and far-reaching than the invisible forces of nature that are being used as the great and mighty motors in the world's activities. Thought is even greater than electricity! But we do not fully appreciate or understand its powers.

Thought is our sublimated essence, if I may so express it, and throws out an "atmosphere" reaching far beyond our corporeal limits, like the perfume of flowers out-reaches the petals from which it emanates, and which may be pure and sweet and inspiring to higher endeavor, or may be indifferent and neutral, or it may be like the poisonous exhalations of a noxious weed. Whatever thoughts have the ascendancy, they stamp the character and give out their influence.

Many learned men and women who study deep into the mysteries of life declare that according to the love and beneficence of God each and every soul is born into the condition of life best fitted for it, to undergo certain experiences most conducive to spiritual growth and strange and cruel as it must *appear* to the unhappy, this must be so. We used to think everything depended on environment and we think so still. The inherent qualities of a lily, a rose or an oak tree are the same always and everywhere, but they can only come up to their best where the soil and climate is most favorable. And it is just as true of men and women and just as true of human character, the development of which is the reason and object of our being. But *growth* of character depends upon spiritual laws which are as far above natural laws as is the mind above the body. Tho as yet we have but a mere glimmer of its power being chained and interlinked as we think to physical bonds. Suffice it to say that it is the unspeakably happy privilege, nay *destiny* of each and every soul into whom "God has breathed the breath of life" to find, and if need be, to suffer its way up to Him until it comes into harmony with spiritual law and realizes the glorious words of Christ when he declared "The kingdom of heaven is within you."

When we come this far upon the way toward the light then will we see how it was that God was with us thro all our trial and despair, tho we knew it not, and that he had a deep and loving reason for whatever we may have been called upon to experience. To have found the Christ within us is to have gained heaven and then outward condition—environment—does not matter. And

then the character is established upon the laws of truth and justice and love and with the great and loving heart of Christ within us we can pity and understand and forgive and love the whole world as our brother, nay we can pity and love and forgive it even as if it were our own. Happy and thrice blest is the man and woman who have found "the kingdom of God *within* them" whose thoughts are full of radiant light and that peace which passeth all understanding. God bless each reader.

Somerset. Pa.

The Mission Field

For Washington City Church Property

Mrs. E. A. Early, Nappanee, Ind., (pd)	\$ 1 00
Mrs. Sarah Leslie, " " "	50
Mrs. Mary K. Fair, Hardy, Neb., "	2 00
Previously reported,	558 53

Total, \$ 562 03

Remember that we are not soliciting the cash now, but *pledges*.

W. M. LYON.

Chicago Work

Notwithstanding the extreme cold weather and the great amount of sickness the past two months, we have kept our work here going. This winter has been very hard on the poor in this city. Lagrippe has been generally prevalent, and a great many deaths have occurred, resulting from it. Some of the "not understandable" incomprehensible freaks of human depravity are seen here among those who have to ask for aid to get thro the winter and just as soon as they earn a little money they spend it for beer, and at the same time are calling on the charities for bread for their children. Sceptics need not say anything about the mystery of the "atone-ment," here is a mystery of the devil's own getting up, that more than baffles any sane mind. Many of the above class of people are members of the Roman Catholic church and go to confession every week, and take the communion (?) from the priest's hands every Sunday morning before breakfast, and then purchase a pail of beer on the way home from church (and, of course, are very spiritual (?) the balance of the day). Alas while the D. D s have been "debating theology" and trans and consubstantiation in the bread and wine, Satan has poisoned the "bread of life" and thousands are eating and drinking damnation to their souls, "not discerning the Lord's body" in his ordinances. Those people have a life time training in the error, and to reform them is well nigh a hopeless task. But they are the same kind of pagans that Paul preached to. For Romanism has been romanism always, and in the history of her pagan rights before Christ was born into the world, we find the same orgies indulged in, in the name of religion. Paganism, pure and simple, only in this dispensation it masquerades under the name Christian. O, the godless religions we meet with. Yet God in his infinite mercy looked down, "and so loved the world," and said,